

## Message Text

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14

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 ARA-11 SS-15 L-03 INR-10 IO-13 RSC-01

/056 R

DRAFTED BY S/ NM: WJHANDLEY: SCT

6/22/73, 28464

APPROVED BY S/ NM: WJHANDLEY

ARA: RHURWITCH

ARA: GLISTER

S/ S - MR. D. MILLER

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R 222330 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123095

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HANDLEY

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: MEXICO

1. I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES NEXT WEEK. IN PAST MONTH SINCE I HAVE TAKEN OVER AS SENIOR ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, THE MEXICAN CONNECTION SEEMS CLEARLY TO ME TO BE ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT PROBLEM AREAS IN THE NARCOTICS PICTURE. MY CONTACTS ON THE HILL SINCE THEN HAVE REINFORCED THE NOTION THAT THERE IS GREAT DISSATISFACTION HERE REGARDING MEXICAN PERFORMANCE AND THERE IS INDEED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CRITICISM OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND THE EMBASSY FOR NOT HAVING DONE MORE.

2. I HOPE THAT, IN ADDITION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS,  
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I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHO MAY BE SENSITIVE TO AN APPROACH EXPRESSING OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND EXPLOITATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF WILL BE THINKING OF HOW BEST WE CAN MAKE THE GOM SINCERELY AND ENERGETICALLY TACKLE THIS MATTER. MY IMPRESSION FROM THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE USG AND WITH THE HILL IS THAT WE COULD OBTAIN A GREAT DEAL OF FINANCIAL

AND OTHER KINDS OF SUPPORT FOR MEXICO FOR THIS PURPOSE IF WE FELT THAT THERE COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ARRESTS OF MAJOR TRAFFICKERS, SEIZURES OF LABORATORIES, AND SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN POPPY GROWING.

3. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO WHAT " ALLIES" WE CAN DEVELOP WITHIN THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY TO BRING ABOUT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MEXICAN EFFORTS AGAINST ILLEGAL PRODUCERS AND TRAFFICKERS? IS IT WITHIN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE UNIVERSITIES, THE PRESS? IS IT GETTING TO THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WITH AS FORCEFUL A PRESENTATION AS POSSIBLE? IS IT BRINGING TO INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S ATTENTION IN THE PROPER FORUM THE FACT THAT MEXICAN RECORD IS PRETTY POOR WITH RESPECT TO ARREST AND EXTRADITION OF TRAFFICKERS, LABORATORY " BUSTS," AND OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION?

4. WITHIN ABOUT TWO OR THREE MONTHS FROM NOW WE WILL BE HAVING A FORMAL MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ( SIMILAR TO THE ONE YOU AND I ATTENDED IN JUNE 1971) AND THE MEXICAN PROBLEM WILL BE PROMINENT AMONG THOSE ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION. ALTHOUGH I FULLY UNDERSTAND WHY MIRACLES CANNOT BE WROUGHT QUICKLY AND DRAMATICALLY, I DO HOPE THAT WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO SPECIFY WHAT PRACTICAL REALISTIC STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF MEXICO AS A SOURCE AND TRAFFIC ROUTE FOR ILLICIT NARCOTICS ENTERING THE U. S. RUSH

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* STADIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** collinp0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE123095  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WJHANDLEY: SCT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
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**Line Count:** 102  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SNM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** collinp0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by collinp0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** NARCOTICS CONTROL: MEXICO  
**TAGS:** SNAR, MX  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005